

For the
Record

Statement from Carol Muller to Program Review and Investigations Committee

Public Hearing February 22, 2012

These people that want to close STS because they believe that it is more expensive to run the facility than having all these "homes" and staff to run them and maintain them and perhaps they believe the clients would have a better place to live should know what i have seen in the **65 years i have been going to the school.**

i have been present when they closed cottages - let me tell you how stressful it is for the guys there -

they are use to their PLACE in a cottage - it is an ANCHOR in their lives and whenever there is any kind of change it is more traumatic to them than to you or i

i went thru that with my brother three times in a few years because of cottage closings due to budget cuts---

in one of the moves ---

one of the guys indicated he wanted to commit suicide --- unbelievable right!!! some sat on the floor and cried and could not be consoled ---- the staff was crying because their "family" was broken up ---

the staff go out and buy christmas presents, wrap them, decorate the cottage and the rooms and have birthday parties and celebrate different holidays ===== they take the guys out for coffee and bowling and walks and fishing

groups that had been together for years- they were family by then along with the staff that took care of them were broken up and put into different cottages

you cannot imagine the grief that was caused to the clients - i know they are retarded and i know some are beyond what you might consider - caring where they are BUT they do care --- way down deep in their minds even the most severe are acutely aware of their surroundings

do any of these "do gooders" ever consider the plight of the aging population in connecticut that have retarded children that live with them and they are fearful of the fate of their children when they pass on????

my brother, Victor, passed away last year of pancreatic cancer. Let me tell you that the hospital staff couldn't do enough for him, others staid by his side --- when he passed away they had the staff from his cottage and others that knew him throughout the years , from his work crews and the nurserey, take turns staying with him and comforting him at the end --- they were in a circle and PRAYING for him - and i do not want to hear that praying is outlawed ---
that will not happen anywhere else

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW WE FEEL WHEN WE HEAR THAT THEY WANT TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL??? I LOVED MY BROTHER BUT I KNOW I AM GLAD HE PASSED AWAY SO THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO THRU THE TERRIBLE ORDEAL THAT IS PROPOSED FOR THE REST OF THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE.

so please DO NOT CLOSE STS - IT SHOULD BE REOPENED AND MORE CLIENTS BE ALLOWED TO ENJOY SPENDING THEIR LIVES THERE

CAROL MULLER